



Appn. No. 09/521,367
Amendment dated December 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2003

12-15-03
AF/3731
12-30-03
#15/CNE
Corres. and Mail
BOX AF

Attorney Docket No. 00146/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Hitoshi KARASAWA

Serial No. : 09/521,367

Filed : March 8, 2000

For : TROCAR SHEATH TUBE

Art Unit : 3731

Examiner : Paul A. Roberts

Confirm. No.: 9961

Customer No.: 01933

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 1700**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

S I R :

This is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 13, 2003, the term for response to which is extended by three months by Petition filed concurrently herewith to December 13, 2003.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper
Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 7 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 15 of this paper.

MAIL STOP "AF"
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
USSN 09/521,367
GAU 3731
Express Mail Mailing Label
No.: EV 395876796 US
#15/CNE

Date of Deposit: December 11, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Marilyn Stults
Marilyn Stults

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700